

**MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2019, ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by State Chair Kamran Abdollahi.

Present were: Buck Vandersteen, Fred Hagaman, Tim Holland, Bill Wieger, Buddy VanHoof, Eugene Austin, Holly Morgan, via phone conference: Niels de Hoop, Kamran Abdollahi, Ashley Long.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

**Chair Comments-Kamran Abdollahi:**

Recognition and gratitude to Shaun Tanger for his service to LASAF and to Buck Vandersteen for his leadership assistance to Shaun.

The Chair would like input from all members and will continue with the traditional path of the Executive Committee. Direction will be to shape each and all members to have a diverse impact and unifying ideas and work efforts. There needs to be more input from the Committee as well as the general membership.

There is discussion on doing all that can be done to help the student chapters and individual students. For example, conducting and participating in job fairs, supporting Academic Programs, and to be advocates for recently graduated students.

Recognition also to LASAF awards at the National Convention in Louisville, KY, where Dr. Mike Blazier received the Presidential Field Forester, Ms. Asija Rice received the Diversity Award and Fred Hagaman was named Fellow in SAF.

**Treasurer's Report– Buck Vandersteen:**

The Louisiana Society started the year 2019 with \$25,553.36, receiving \$16,607.38, and had \$30,140.48, in disbursements throughout the year. The LASAF is in good financial shape with cash on hand to use for all programs and CD funds as long term savings.

A request was made for \$1,000 to be spent on a new display for meetings, outreach programs and events. A motion was past to approve the purchase.

**Awards Chair Report-Buddy VanHoof**

The Awards committee will meet with the University Faculty Advisors for student award recipients and to begin a nominations search for the traditional LASAF awards.

**Annual Meeting-**

The 2020 meeting will be a Multi-State gathering between Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. SAF CEO Terry Baker will be attending. Morning and afternoon sessions are set and planning is progressing well. The Meeting will be March 31-April 2, 2020, in Alexandria. The next planning meeting will be December 11 where a brochure will be finalized.

## **Chapter Chair Reports**

*North La:* The Group met on Thursday, September 26, at the LSU Hill Farm Research Station. Sixteen people attended the meeting. LSU Forestry Professor Dr. Mike Blazier led the group on a field tour of a longleaf pine genotype study he is conducting. The next chapter meeting will be in Ruston in January. Dr. Paul Jackson with Louisiana Tech will discuss tree planting.

*Pineywoods:* This is the 30th year the Chapter has been participating in Forestry Awareness including 1300 students and teachers this year and likely 40,000 in the last 30 years. Recent meetings included programs on the Sabine River Authority, NRCS program updates for 2019, and a "Look Back" on 2019 and Forward to 2020 on Legislative updates.

*Cenla:* Recent meeting with Cool Planet detailing production of biochar at their new plant located at the Port of Alexandria.

*Southeast:* Will be scheduling a joint meeting with the Southern University Student Chapter. Recent meeting that included a field tour of A. Wilbert's Sons forest management on the company's lands.

*Southern University:* The SU Chapter had 15 students and 5 faculty attend the SAF National Convention in Louisville, with some of the students participating in poster presentations. There are 10 new student members and the Chapter will begin paying first-year dues for new members.

*LSU:* The students have been active in SAF happenings including a campout at the LSU Lee Forest and the annual Christmas Tree sale after Thanksgiving. Seven students attended the SAF National Convention in Louisville. This year's Conclave will be March 19-22, 2020, in Knoxville at the University of Tennessee. There are a number of students showing interest in participating in the poster session at the Tx,La,Ms Multi-State meeting.

*LaTech:* The Tech Chapter had 12 students and 3 faculty attend the SAF National Convention in Louisville.

### **Membership-** Tim Holland

Currently there are 186 active and 94 lapsed members of the LASAF. A letter was mailed to each lapsed member reminding and asking to renew.

### **Old Business-**

*Student Engagement-* Ashley Long

The National SAF Board requested a list of student engagement ideas from the Membership and State and Local Societies. As of date there is no feedback, however a report was sent to the Board.

*Newsletter-* An effort will be made to revive the LASAF Newsletter.

*WebSite-* Efforts continue in updating and redesign of the LASAF website.

### **New Business-**

There was mention to consider having a Student Representative as a seat on the LASAF Executive Committee.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.